ABSTRACT

Control data subsequent to an extension start code is stored in an encoding apparatus when transmitted after each header data of a video sequence layer, a GOP layer, a picture layer and a slice layer. In transmission of the next header data, the content of the control data subsequent to the extension start code in the header data to be transmitted is compared with the content of the preceding header data of the same layer stored in the encoding apparatus. If the result of such comparison signifies that the compared data are mutually the same, neither the extension start code nor the subsequent control data is transmitted. At the reception of each header data of the video sequence layer, the GOP layer, the picture layer and the slice layer, the control data decoded subsequently to the extension start code is stored in the decoding apparatus. When the extension start code is not existent in the next header data to be decoded, the preceding header data of the same layer stored in the decoding apparatus is duplicated and used as the control data of the layer being currently encoded.

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